

CLASSIFICATION

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

## INFORMATION REPORT

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1. In August 1950 Paul Markgraf, formerly President of the East Berlin Police, returned from Moscow, where he and other high-ranking VP officers had attended a special course of instruction, allegedly a general-staff indoctrination covering in detail all phases of a so-called "X-Day." Other officers received similar indoctrination in the Soviet Zone of Germany.\*
2. In August 1950 Paul Markgraf attended a meeting of two hundred specially selected and reliable VP officers, at which Marshal Vasili Sokolovsky, Deputy Minister of Defense, delivered a speech. Sokolovsky severely attacked the Western Powers which were about to unleash a new war against the U.S.S.R. and prophesied that they were doomed to disastrous defeat, worse than that experienced by Hitler. He also said that he was addressing the "elite of Germany", and that Germany would soon have the opportunity of completely rehabilitating herself. Sokolovsky had come from Prague to deliver this speech. The day after the meeting, Marshal Chuikov gave a reception for Sokolovsky, which was also attended by the key functionaries of the SED.\*
3. On 1 October 1949 a group of 150 to 160 VP officers left Berlin for the U.S.S.R. to attend a training course which was conducted at a Soviet military academy at a troop training grounds near Saratov. The group consisted primarily of former regular officers including captains, majors, and one lieutenant colonel, and included five veterans of the Spanish Civil War and a number of businessmen and engineers, most of them former KPD functionaries. Prominent among these were former Berlin Police President Paul Markgraf, the Thuringian Minister of the Interior, and the Police Presidents of Thuringia and Saxony.
4. The VP officers were billeted in two large dormitory rooms and were kept in complete isolation from Soviet military personnel, except instructors. They were restricted to quarters and barred from any contact with the civilian populace.

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\*\*\* [ ] Comment. The installations known to be in Saratov include an infantry military school; two tank military schools for officer candidates, who are promoted to the rank of junior lieutenant upon graduation; and a tank training grounds. With the exception of the Frunze Military Academy in Moscow, the Soviet military academies train only officers of one branch of service. It appears unlikely that German guns should have been used for artillery training in the U.S.S.R. There has never been a German 180-mm howitzer ("Moerser"), the German Army having been equipped with model 1918 210-mm howitzers ("Moerser") and a 170-mm gun on howitzer mount.

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